

~~SECRET~~EIC/S BRIEF ON SUBCOMMITTEES ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND FINANCE

REFERENCES: General Concept and Functions of EIC Subcommittees,  
 EIC-D-123/2, 20 December 1955  
 SC Series of Reference, 5 March 1956  
 SC Annual Report for FY 1955, see EIC-D-116, 14 Sep 55  
 SC Annual Report for FY 1956, see EIC-D-137, 19 Oct 56

1. This has been a relatively inactive subcommittee. It held only one meeting during FY 1956, and has held no meetings thus far during FY 1957. The subcommittee was fairly active in FY 1955 when it produced EIC-R-11, "The Balance of Payments of the Soviet Bloc and Communist China with the Free World, 1948-53," and EIC-68-3, "Institutions and Arrangements in International Trade and Finance within the Soviet Bloc." The subcommittee has initiated action on review of research deficiencies; examination of research techniques; agreement of basic statistics; and review of reports, contributions, etc. It has not yet, however, completed action on these undertakings.

2. The subcommittee was weakened in its functioning because of the non-availability for a long period of time of the State Department member (and SC Chairman).

3. In the past, the Annual Reports of this SC have indicated that its relative inactivity was largely the result of the fact that it had no important or interesting assignments to perform. There is unquestionably some foundation for this contention. At present three important areas within the general field of this SC are handled by other groups in the EIC community. These are:

a. Sino-Soviet Bloc economic activities in underdeveloped areas, including, of course, trade and financial arrangements. This is handled by the EIC Working Group on Sino-Soviet Bloc Economic Activities in Underdeveloped Areas.

b. Communist China's trade, which has been covered by the EIC-R-1 working groups.

c. Strategic trade and trade controls, which are handled by the EMC/EDIC structure.

4. It would seem neither feasible nor advisable to shift the functions indicated above from the groups now handling them to the Subcommittee. The minimum functions for EIC subcommittees listed in EIC-D-123/2 could, however, be usefully undertaken by the SC, particularly the review and evaluation of the state of intelligence in its field, the identification of priority deficiencies, and the recommendation of remedial actions.

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Subcommittee on International Trade and Finance

5. The completion of its survey of priority research deficiencies—including coverage of the specific areas within the purview of the three groups indicated in paragraph 3 above—might well reveal priority deficiencies which ought to be filled, notwithstanding the heavy burden on the available research facilities in this field. Possibilities are: the sterling resources of the USSR and of Communist China; trends in and significance of Bloc trade with the entire Free World, the economic impact on and costs to the Bloc of trade controls; an up-dating of EIC-R-11, and of EIC-RR-3; etc.

6. This SC sometimes ran into difficulties because of the fact that some of its members, particularly those representing non-IAC agencies, did not have clearance for all sources of intelligence materials. Broader clearances would facilitate better insight into the actual state of intelligence in this field, and are essential for contributing to analysis of certain substantive problems relating to China trade, economic penetration, etc.

7. The Executive Secretary of this SC has prepared a memorandum to the SC members (attached) outlining "Projected Activities for the Remainder of Fiscal Year 1957." This memorandum appears to set the sights for SC action at about the appropriate level, and if the proposals are carried out would comply with the directive of EIC-D-123/2 regarding minimum functions for EIC subcommittees.

Attachment:

Memorandum indicated in  
paragraph 7 above.

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~~SECRET~~Subcommittee on International Trade and FinanceNOTES AND RECOMMENDATIONS (FOR THE CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN ONLY)

8. The agencies represented on the subcommittee are as follows:

State	-	*	
Army	-	(Dexter Wood)	
Navy	-	(John F. Crane)	
Air Force	-	(Richard F. Oliver)	
CIA	-	[REDACTED] (Executive Secretary)	25X1A9a
Commerce	-	(Carl P. Blackwell)	
Federal Reserve Board	-	(Samuel E. Thomas)	
ICA	-	(David Wilson)	
OSD	-	(Franklin W. Dunn)	
Treasury	-	(Morris J. Fields)	

\*Note: (Vacant at present; Harry Bell scheduled to enter on duty, and be appointed to EC in May, 1957.)

9. This committee has been derelict in not performing the minimum EIC EC functions in the past. In some part, this has been because of the slight interest and prolonged non-availability of the State Department representative (and Chairman). State and CIA are the agencies most actively engaged in research in the field of this EC. The former State Department member, Alfred Reifman, was not available for EC work for over a year, and subsequently, transferred from State. Ed Deherly informs us that a very able replacement for Reifman, Harry Bell, will enter on duty in May. Bell is a capable economist. His presence on the EC should be of considerable assistance in revitalizing it. Given the work done in the general field of trade and finance by the EDAC/EDIC structure, the Soviet economic penetration working group and the EIC-B-1 working groups--and the limited research facilities in this field other than those in OSR--any proposal for greatly expanded activities for this EC would seem unwarranted.

10. It is, therefore, recommended that:

a. The proposals contained in the attached memorandum from the EC Executive Secretary to the members thereof, relating to activities to be carried out during the remainder of FY 1957, be given the "blessing" of the EIC, with a strong prod to move in the direction indicated. The carrying out of its minimum functions would appear to require at least two well-organized meetings per year in addition to such special meetings as may be required for the review of external research projects and exchange proposals. Once the EC begins to meet regularly, it may well generate additional useful functions along the lines of the "Additional Functions for EIC Subcommittees" of EIC-B-123/2.

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Subcommittee on International Trade and Finance

b. You raise with State the question of special clearance for the new State Department member-designate (and presumably Chairman).

c. Following the completion of the SC's proposed Survey of Priority Research Deficiencies, it consider the undertaking by ad hoc working groups of the subcommittee of such urgently needed coordinated intelligence as may be called for.

- 4 -

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